

Sent By: ATTORNEY AT LAW;

703 938 3817;

Dec-7-04 5:15PM;

Page 8

Application/Control Number: 10/064,478
Title: AVS Liquid Feed Terminal
Art Unit: 1724

Page 1 of 4
Applicant: POWELL, ET AL.
Attorney Docket No. 02-RIC-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of
James R. Powell and Morris Reich
Attorney Docket No.: 02-RIC-02
Title: AVS Liquid Feed Terminal
Filed: July 18, 2004
For: Apparatus and Process of Using

Art Unit: 1724
Examiner: Robert J. Popovics
Application/Control Number: 10/064,478
Office Action: September 30, 2004
Reply Due: October 30, 2004

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Date of Reply: October 5, 2004

Sir:

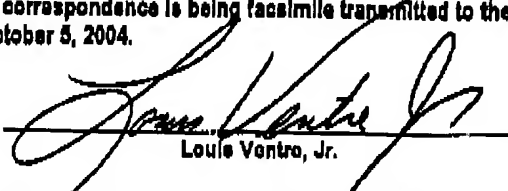
**Applicant's Reply to USPTO Restriction/Election Requirement
Election with Traverse**

Applicant elects the apparatus claims, Claims 1-16, identified as Invention I by
the examiner. Applicant makes this election in anticipation of potential rejoinder of the
claims involving the process of using (Invention II) pursuant to MPEP § 821.04.

Applicant traverses the requirement to restrict because the requirement is in
error.

Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and
Trademark Office on October 5, 2004.


Louis Ventre, Jr.

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Title: AVS Liquid Feed Terminal

Applicant: POWELL, ET AL.

Art Unit: 1724

Attorney Docket No. 02-RIC-02

1 The stated reason for the restriction is that *"the apparatus as claimed can be*
2 *used to practice another and materially different process, such as introduction of a liquid*
3 *or a gas at a submerged point."* Such a use, however, would contradict limitation (c) of
4 claim 1, namely that *"means for receiving or collecting slurry flowing from the endplate*
5 *such that such slurry remains separate from a liquid passing through the porous*
6 *segment of the dual-walled vertical tube."*

7 The means for accomplishing this is explained in paragraph 35 of the
8 specification: *"This can be accomplished by numerous means well known in the art. In*
9 *one such embodiment, the outer area of the endplate is made large enough so that*
10 *liquid spills or drains into an area having no communication, that is fluid contact or*
11 *mixing, with the slurry flowing through the perforations in the inner area of the endplate.*
12 *In another embodiment, a channel is added to the circumference of the endplate to*
13 *direct the liquid effluent flow to a particular area. In another embodiment, the outer area*
14 *of the endplate is shaped with channels to direct the effluent to a particular point at the*
15 *edge of the endplate."*

16 For these embodiments, the endplate may not be submerged as the porous wall
17 at the bottom of the tube and adjacent to the endplate would permit the gas or liquid to
18 mix with the gas or liquid exiting the endplate, violating limitation (c).

19 Even when one particular embodiment is employed using a water tight pipe
20 surrounding the dual walled tube (see paragraph 36 of the specification and dependent
21 claim 4), additional limitations on the invention would be required to comply with

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1 limitation (c) because back flow through the endplate then through the porous wall
2 would have to be prevented. This is not the invention claimed and the stated
3 "materially different process" is not applicable to the claimed apparatus.

4 Applicant further traverses the restriction due to the fact that the process claims
5 (Claims 17-21) are linked and inseparable from the apparatus claim. The process claim
6 depends from or otherwise includes all the limitations of the Independent product claim,
7 to wit, claim 1. Claim 17 comprises a step for using "*the vertical tube of claim 1.*"

8 According to MPEP § 821.04, ". . . if the product claim is subsequently found
9 allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the
10 limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined." Thus, applicant respectfully
11 observes that the process claims should be rejoined if the product claim is allowed, and
12 so makes the request that they be rejoined in the event the product claim is allowed.

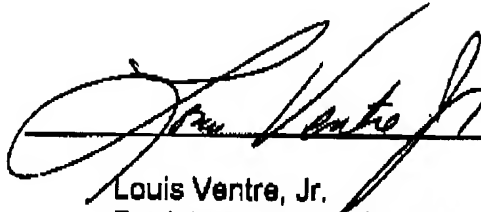
13 Applicant intends this reply to be a complete reply to the non-final Office Action
14 dated September 30, 2004.

15 The submitted claims are believed to be allowable based on the foregoing
16 distinctions set forth. Therefore, applicant requests that the claims remaining in the
17 case be allowed.

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Title: AVS Liquid Feed Terminal
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1 Respectfully submitted,



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Facsimile Number, Alternate: 413-812-1837

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Page 10

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Application/Control Number: 10/064,478
Title: AV8 Liquid Feed Terminal
Art Unit: 1724Page 1 of 4
Applicant: POWELL, ET AL.
Attorney Docket No. 02-RIC-02

1 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
2 TRADEMARK OFFICE

3 In re the Application of Art Unit: 1724
4 James R. Powell and Morris Reich Examiner: Robert J. Papovics
5 Attorney Docket No.: 02-RIC-02 Application/Control Number: 10/064,478
6 Title: AV8 Liquid Feed Terminal Office Action: September 30, 2004
7 Filed: July 18, 2004 Reply Due: October 30, 2004
8 For: Apparatus and Process of Using

9

10 Assistant Commissioner for Patents Date of Reply: October 5, 2004
11 Washington, DC 20231

12 Sir
13 Applicant's Reply to USPTO Restriction/Election Requirement
14 Election with Traverse

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17 claims involving the process of using (Invention II) pursuant to MPEP § 821.04.
18 Applicant traverses the requirement to restrict because the requirement is in
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DATE: December 3, 2004

NUMBER OF SHEETS INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 9

DELIVER TO: Robert James Popovics

MESSAGE:

RE: Attorney Docket No. 02-RJC-02
Application No. 12/064,478
Art Unit 1724

Following are —

1. Two page reply to Office Action dated November 26, 2004 re missing pages.
2. One page Office Action dated November 26, 2004.
3. Four page retransmission of October 8, 2004 reply to Repl. 30 Office Action.
4. One page fax receipt showing USPTO receipt on October 8 of applicant's October 8, 2004 reply to USPTO's Repl. 30 Office Action.

Sincerely

